

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

SECDEF

JCS

USCINCSO

S E C R E T BRASILIA 5458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR BR

SUBJ: USSOUTHCOM

REF: STATE 164406

1. IN REGARD TO PARA 2A OF REFTEL, EVEN THOUGH THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY MEN HOLD THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA IN LOW ESTEEM AND DISDAIN THE PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD, THEY DO OCCASIONALLY EVINCE FEELINGS OF "LATIN" SOLIDARITY WITH THE PANAMANIAN. AT SUCH TIMES, THE U.S. PRESENCE (MILITARY AND NON-MILITARY) IN THE CANAL ZONE HAS A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON BRAZILIAN MILITARY MEN. THE LOCATION OF THE SOUTHERN COMMAND IN THE CANAL ZONE, REFERRED TO BY THE BRAZILIANS AS "PANAMA", TENDS TO LESSEN THE RESPECT THAT THE BRAZILIANS WOULD NORMALLY HAVE FOR SUCH A MAJOR COMMAND. THERE IS A GENERAL BELIEF THAT THE COMMAND IS "BANANA REPUBLIC" ORIENTED, RATHER THAN CONCERNED WITH THE WHOLE OF LATIN AMERICA. THEREFORE, THE TRANSFER OF THE USSOUTHCOM TO THE U.S. INCLUDING PUERTO RICO WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE BRAZILIANS.

2. IN REGARD TO PARA 2B OF REFTEL, WHILE BRAZILIAN MILITARY

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MEN ARE NOT OVERLY SYMPATHETIC TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA'S

CAUSE IN ITS CONTROVERSY WITH THE U.S. OVER THE CANAL, THEY
TEND TO FEEL THAT THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE CANAL
ZONE CONSTITUTES A POWERFUL CLUB WHICH THE U.S. HOLDS OVER
THE HEADS OF THE PANAMANIAN, ONE WHICH DEPRIVES THEM OF
ANY REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF ASSERTING MEANINGFUL
SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS. CRIMMINS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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